Export target for the Current Financial Year

861. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export target for the current financial year compared to actuals in preceding two years;

(b) what facilities are being taken to exporters to boost exports; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve exports to Australia in the context of Prime Minister's visit to that country and formation of Indo-Australian Joint Business Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The export target for the financial year 1988-89 has fixed at Rs. 18795 crores, as compared to the provisional exports of Rs. 15719.36 crores during 1987-88 and Rs. 12569.33 crores during 1986-87.

(b) The facilities available to exporters include, *inter-alia*, Cash Compensatory Support, Market Development Assistance, Interest subsidy, access to raw materials at International prices, import of selected machinery and plant at concessional rates of duty.

(c) An Indo-Australia Joint Business Council was established during ths visit of our Prime Minister to Australia in October, 1986. So far two meetings of the Council were held: the first at New Delhi in March 1987 and the second at Melbourne in March 1988. The steps being taken to increase our trade with Australia include exchange of rade delegations in identified sectors, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, meeting of Joint Business Council, Joint Trade Committee, etc.

Liberalisation of Gold Policy

862. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the gold policy soon to some extent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details of the proposal under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Rangarajan Committee set up by the Government to examine the question of import of gold and the Gold (Control) Act has submitted its report. The Committee has, *interalia* suggested modifications in the Gold (Control) Act, review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules 1978 and Baggage Rules 1978.

Naxalite activities in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

863. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxalite activities have been increasing in Madhya Pradesh during the last 2-3 months;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the naxalite activities have also been increasing in Andhra Pradesh if so: whether the Central

Government have agreed to help the States in meeting the naxalite menace which has created great disturbance in the States on a large scale and what kind of assistance has been provided so far to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Available reports do not indicate that Madhya Pradesh is seriously affected by Left Wing extremism. However, there are certain pockets of Left Wing influence in the districts bordering Andhra Pradesh. The Government, is, however, aware of the increased extremist activities in Andhra Pradesh. Since the maintenance of law and order in the primary concern of the State Government, the concerned State Governments are taking appropriate measures to tackle the situation. The Central Government is sharing information regarding the activities of the extremists with the State Governments on a regular basis. In addition, deployment of paramilitary forces, provision of training facilities for State police personnel, improved wireless communication facilities and better weapons are being provided as per the requirements to the concerned State Governments subject to availability.

Amount received by Madhya Pradesh under wasteland development programme

864. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had received a sum of Rs. 13 crores from the Union Government under wasteland development programme;

(b) if so, what are the schemes that were undertaken by the State Government on this account and how much was spent out of the amount and how much still remain to be spent on this amount; and

(c) what were the wasteland areas improved under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) During first four years of the 7th Plan, Rs. 12.13 crores were allocated to Madhya Pradesh for afforestation programmes by National Wastelands Development Board, under the two schemes (i) Rural Fuelwood Plantation and (ii) Decentralised Peoples Nurseries. An amount of Rs. 7.86 crores has been spent so far.

(c) So far, 72,733 hectare of afforestation has been done under these two schemes.

Increase in India's Trade Deficit

865. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year is at a higher level in comparison to the same period last year,

(b) if so, what is the total icrease in trade deficit and what were the main reasons therefor, and to what extent it is higher; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to provisional figures India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year amounted to Rs. 2618.19 crores as compared to Rs. 2113.94 crores during the same period last year